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The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 3 January 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint communiqué issued in Miami, United States of America, on 30 December 1999 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua and Honduras, in which the two Governments undertake to adopt measures designed to avoid the occurrence of violent actions that endanger peace, security and stability in the Central American region and reaffirm the desire of both nations to resolve their differences through peaceful means.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 47.

(*Signed*) Alfonso **Ortega Urbina**
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Joint communiqué issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua and Honduras in Miami, United States of America, on 30 December 1999

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, Roberto Flores Bermúdez, and Nicaragua, Eduardo Montealegre Rivas, met in Miami, United States of America, on 29 and 30 December 1999 together with Luigi Einaudi, Special Representative of the Organization of American States (OAS). In implementation of resolution 757 adopted by the Permanent Council of OAS on 7 December 1999, the discussions aimed at identifying measures or actions designed to eliminate the tensions that exist between the two countries, prevent acts that might affect regional peace and strengthen good-neighbourly relations.

1. As a result of these talks, held in an atmosphere of mutual respect, it was agreed that there should be an immediate separation of armed forces, and that to that end:

(a) A military exclusion zone in the Caribbean Sea should be defined and established;

(b) The presence of military personnel and border posts on and around the land borders should be immediately frozen in the positions and quantities as at 1 September 1999;

(c) The process of marking the border in the Gulf of Fonseca should be immediately renewed in accordance with the timetable previously established by the two countries. To that end, the parties shall take the necessary measures to ensure the security of the technical personnel carrying out that work.

2. The modalities for implementation of the measures of confidence-building and détente indicated in paragraph 1 shall be negotiated in such a way as to permit verification of their implementation by third parties and to enable them in addition:

(a) To ensure the safety of fishermen;

(b) To prevent incidents that threaten the security of the populations along the border, particularly indigenous and rural communities.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs reaffirm the will of their countries to resolve their differences peacefully, and recognize the appropriateness of having submitted the issues relating to maritime space in the Caribbean Sea to the decision of the International Court of Justice.

4. The Ministers also agreed to seek and continue to make use of established bodies, mechanisms and other modalities of jurisdictional and political resources that existed in the Central American Integration System that will permit the resolution, also peacefully, of differences on a regional scale.

5. The Ministers and the Special Representative agreed to meet at the headquarters of OAS on 12 and 13 January 2000 to continue developing measures that will promote confidence between the two countries.

6. The Special Representative will inform OAS and the media of the agreements on the issues referred to above reached by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Honduras and Nicaragua in the course of the scheduled meetings.

(*Signed*) Roberto **Flores Bermúdez**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras

(*Signed*) Eduardo **Montealegre Rivas**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua

(*Signed*) Luigi R. **Einaudi**
Special Representative of the
Organization of American States